

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

September 2013 – Week 2

Air Date: September 8 – September 14 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: BLACK GOLD

SEPTEMBER 1866 AND TEXANS STRIKE BLACK GOLD.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1866. NEAR NACOGDOCHES. SPURRED BY A YANKEE OIL BOOM, LOCAL STORE CLERK LYNE T. BARRET HAS HIS EYE ON THE CRUDE OIL KNOWN TO BUBBLE UP FROM THE GROUND HERE.

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, HE FORMS A COMPANY AND BEGINS TO DRILL. USING A STEAM-POWERED RIG USED TO MAKE WATER WELLS, BARRET HAS LITTLE SUCCESS.

BUT WHEN THE AUGER HITS 106 FEET, OIL GUSHES TO THE SURFACE – BLACK GOLD! THE WELL PRODUCES ONLY TEN BARRELS A DAY, BUT IT'S THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL WELL IN TEXAS.

RECONSTRUCTION DELAYS DRILLING AND BARRET LOSES MONEY. BY 1868, HE IS BACK AT HIS STORE.

OIL DRILLING CAME TO TEXAS 147 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Roger M. Olien, "OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/doogz>), accessed August 29, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

O. Scott Petty, "OIL EXPLORATION," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/doo15>), accessed August 29, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Linda E. Devereaux, "BARRET, LYNE TALIAFERRO," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fba80>), accessed August 29, 2013. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

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